

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), Vice Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, today applauded House passage of H.R. 6080, the 2010 Emergency Border Security Supplemental Appropriations Bill. The bill would help combat violence along the U.S.-Mexico border by investing \$600 million in border security and enforcement efforts.

“Securing our borders requires smart investments in the men and women who enforce our immigration and customs laws,” said Rep. Sanchez. “This bill would help ensure local and federal law enforcement have the resources they need to combat weapons smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, and other crimes along our borders. It is also fully offset, proving that homeland security does not have to come at the expense of fiscal responsibility.”

Over the past three years, Congress increased Customs and Border Protection Funding (CBP) funding from \$8.2 billion to \$10.1 billion and added an extra \$680 million for CBP border infrastructure and security activities as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The border security supplement builds on those investments by:

- Deploying 1,000 new Border Patrol agents to patrol the Mexican and Canadian borders and the coastal waters surrounding Florida and Puerto Rico. The bill also creates 250 new CBP officer positions to enhance Southwest Border port of entry operations.
- Funding two new Predator-B unmanned aircraft systems for surveillance of areas between official ports of entry. These aircraft and other surveillance technologies play a crucial role in our mission to stop terrorists and drug smugglers before they enter the United States.
- Creating two additional forward operating bases to enable Border Patrol agents to operate closer to the border.

Additionally, the bill provides Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with additional resources to help combat drugs, weapons, and cash smuggling across our borders, as well as human trafficking and money laundering. Specifically, the Emergency Border Security Supplemental Appropriations Bill would:

- Provide \$23 million for Border Enforcement Security Task Forces (BEST), which encourages Federal, State, and local partners to work together to prevent, investigate, and prosecute narcotics trafficking, human smuggling, and money laundering crimes. The funding will allow ICE to expand its operations to four additional Southwest Border locations.
- Invest \$50 million for permanent ICE staff increases along the U.S.-Mexico border, helping

the organization more effectively disrupt the illegal flow of drugs and weapons across the border.

- Provide \$7 million to expand ICE jail programs, which help local sheriffs and police chiefs identify and deport criminal aliens. The funding would also be used to support Mexican law enforcement through specialized training and joint investigations programs.